

RECEIVED

FEB 16 1996

FCC MAIL ROOM

6523 40th Avenue
University Park, MD 20782
February 15, 1996

95-174
DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

The Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C., 20554

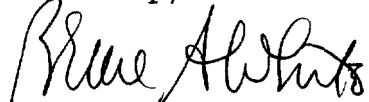
RE: FCC 95-484

Dear Secretary:

Exemptions from closed captioning should not be given to any classes of video programs. My wife and I are deaf parents of a seven-year old hearing child, and it is impossible to monitor the suitability of programs she watches if we are unable to have access to not only **what** is being said but **how** it is being said. Additionally, not being able to discuss with her what she is watching deprives us all of family interaction and limits our ability to fulfill our parental obligations.

When it comes to business and educational programming, we are very limited in what is available in closed captioning. When we receive videotapes from vacation providers or "how-to" videotapes with the purchase of electronic equipment, for example, they are useless for our purposes. With technology that is already available for automated voice-to-scripting there is no excuse for granting exemptions from closed captioning to videotape producers; such exemptions deny access to millions of deaf and hard-of-hearing American citizens.

Sincerely,


Bruce A. White, Ph.D.

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABCDE

RECEIVED

FEB 16 1996

February 14, 1996

FCC MAIL ROOM

The Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Re: In the Matter of Close Captioning and Video Description of Video Programming
(FCC 95-484).

Dear Sirs;

This is my response to your call of inquiry regarding the close captioning provision in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, especially § 713, which provides exemption based on 'burden' of providing close captioning access.

I am voicing my support for a near-100% support for close-captioning programs offered to the public, despite the inevitable claims by small producers and providers that close-captioning is expensive and burdensome, under § 713.

The reason is simple- The Deaf Community, historically, has been excluded from the mainstream community for thousand of years. It was until the 1950's with the advent of the Tele-Typewriters for the Deaf (TTYs); 1960's, with the increased recognition and organization of certified interpreters and interpreting agencies; late 1970's, with the advent of close-captioning; late 1980's, with the introduction of the Americans of Disabilities Act; and 1990's with the proliferation of Telephone Relay Services (TRS) across the continental U.S. All of these milestones have brought about a remarkable result: *An on-going assimilation of the Deaf Community into the mainstream community.*

Now, the average Deaf person has the same opportunities afforded to an average person in America. This average Deaf person has been exposed to cultural icons, ideologies, interpersonal interaction with hearing peers, etc. All of this integration of the Deaf people into the social and professional fabric of the mainstream community has been a direct result of these technological and sociological advances the U.S. has put forth in the past 50 years.

With this context now in place, briefly consider the implications of the small-time producer or provider or a news station crying foul over the 'burdensome' provisions of close-captioning. If these factions were to be heard and were granted immunity from these 'burdens', it only means that the U.S. is reverting back to the status quo of the pre-1950's where the Deaf community was largely excluded from the mainstream community. Also, a double standard would exist- the major players in the telecommunications and entertainment game would still have the resources to provide for close captioning and would be required to do so, but the 'small fish' get through without such a 'burden'.

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABOVE

0

This doesn't have to happen- Treat every player in the industry the same- Close-captioning is **part and parcel** of providing basic services to the community. This sets an example that the U.S. is forging ahead to tomorrow, abandoning the status quo of the past. This would not have immediate impact, but 50 to 100 years later, the effects would be profound and beneficial to the mainstream community, as the Deaf community is almost 100% assimilated.

Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Elliott", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Todd Stephen Elliott
4744 C. Westland Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21227

RECEIVED

FEB 6 1996

FCC MAIL ROOM

Kevin Ryan
8955 Walden Way
Lorton, VA 22079-1759

A NOTICE OF INQUIRY
#95-484

February 4, 1996

95-17

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Sir:

My name is Kevin Ryan. I am hearing impaired (since the age of 18 months), use a hearing aid and rely on lip reading. "They" say my speech is very good. Telephone communication, especially with "strangers", can be difficult so my TDD is used often... so I can READ what is being said to me. And - I proudly have College and Master's degrees from 'all-hearing' schools. I am 52 years old.

Before the advent of "closed captioning" and telecommunications devices for the deaf (TDD) I really had to concentrate very hard to try to understand what was happening at the movie theater and on television. (no wonder I preferred "action" films such as 'cowboys & Indians', 'war pictures', and adventure - especially the old Disney movies.)

Plus sports: open captions / TV graphics facilitate today keeping track of game situations --- time remaining, how many yards to go, how many outs, etc. etc. etc. My patience and determination got me thru - and with also the help of good people near me.

CLOSED CAPTIONING helps me enjoy much more satisfyingly television programs, especially re-watching the movie classics!!!!!! Someday, movie theaters are NEXT!

NO. of copies rec'd
48CDE

A NOTICE OF INQUIRY
95-484

I was born & grew up in my still beloved New York City.

→ YES! - my TV program guides have listed programs as being captioned when there weren't and not listed those which really do have captions; AND

→ YES! - Cable TV captions a low % of programs (I'd guess 3%) but I still don't get a discount as a Media General subscriber [Fairfax County, Va.];

AND → YES! - captions have disappeared and also covered other information on bottom of screen; AND

→ YES! - captions for crucial information on, for example, traffic reports, school closings, inclement weather, government closings, emergencies are needed; AND

AND → YES! - captions have been garbled/missing;

→ YES! - I'm frustrated about programs I'd love to watch but can't enjoy without captions; AND

→ YES! - Whenever I travel, many local TV news programs aren't captioned; AND

→ YES! - I have telephoned TV stations to mention disappearance and non-shows of captions, but with no luck!; AND

→ YES! - Captioned TV is very beneficial in noisy places such as a bar or restaurant; AND

→ YES! Captioned TV has helped me when my family is here with me; AND

→ YES! There are still too many programs which need to be closed-captioned! Especially the old shows such as "Combat", "Run For Your Life", "Then Came Bronson", etc. etc. etc.; AND

→ YES! Increased "closed captioning" means more jobs for captioning personnel potential wage; →

RECEIVED

95-174

★ NOTICE OF INQUIRY
95-484

FEB 16 1996

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

→ YES! Closed-captioning will help our
foreignborn children to read (BUT) we must
guard against over-reliance on TV regarding
the books; AND

→ YES! We need a "UNIVERSAL" remote
to incorporate the closed caption function ...
Once I used 4 remotes just to turn the
damn TV on! - now only 3; AND

→ YES! If there was a law which
required captions on ALL TV ~~programs~~ programs -
an exemption should be allowed because
some people like a screen fully clear of
captions and graphics and understandably so!
But that exemption is already provided for
by law because televisions with built-in
closed captioning capability also allow that
to be turned off if desired

Americans
with
Disabilities
Act

I have written countless letters to the
cable stations and all have replied
EXCEPT the Turner Classic Movies Channel at
1050 Techwood Drive NW, Atlanta GA 30318.

The Washington Times newspaper did not reply
to my letter of several months ago regarding
indicating which TV programs are closed captioned.
They do NOT indicate at all which shows are
CC'd.

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

Sincerely,
Kevin A. Ryan